



CALPEEK

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FULL METAL JACKET: WEST HOLLYWOOD VS. THE GUN LOBBY IN A BATTLE OVER THE SNS.

Editor's note: "SNS" is an abbreviation for *Saturday Night Special* - a cheap (usually under \$100), small caliber handgun which law enforcement officials say is used with increasing frequency in crime. For those who have not been paying attention, the council from the upscale city of West Hollywood in L.A. Co. has asked their city attorney to draft a law which would ban the sale of such weapons in WH. Here is our brief report & analysis...

...Is such a ban legal? There are two sides. The gun lobby would argue that Govt. Code section #53071 prohibits cities & counties from enacting licensing or registration schemes for any firearm. And then there is Penal Code 12026 which prohibits local regulation of the possession of handguns. In short, the pro-gun position holds that locals are totally *pre-empted* from passing any kinds of restriction on the sale of guns...

...On the other side, cities and counties do have power to regulate ammunition and issue firearms dealer's licenses. And for West Hollywood, the key may be SB 731 by Sen. Mike Thompson(D-Napa), which was approved in 1992. Getting a dealer's license in Calif. requires a series of steps which includes local approval. In other words, under SB 731, West Hollywood might be able to ban SNSs through a **local business license ordinance**...

...The bad news for the city of West Hollywood is that this proposed ordinance will undoubtedly be challenged in court and that could cost taxpayers a *small fortune* in legal fees. For Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Abbe Land, the two key backers of this proposed law, this could spell *political trouble* if the courts rule against the city. It could be argued that the city, with only a handful of retail outlets selling guns, should not

spend tight resources on this law. On the other hand, Koretz & Land and West Hollywood would become heroes not only in Calif. and across the U.S., IF the city wins. That's a big IF...

...FYI: Back in 1992, the Amer. Shooting Sports Council (ASSC) - who represent the firearms industry, warned the NRA and other gun groups that SB 731 needed specific guidelines as to what local government could and couldn't do with regard to guns & ammo. According to our sources, these concerns were brushed aside --- and now SB 731 is coming back to haunt the gun lobby because some sources feel SB 731 weakened the pre-emption laws already on the books. Odds are high that come 1996 there will be a bill introduced in Sacto which clearly defines the power of local government over guns & ammo. Stay tuned...

S.F. MAYOR'S RACE: WITH 2 WEEKS LEFT, ANGELA ALIOTO DROPS OUT AND ENDORSES ACHTENBERG.

Editor's note: With the San Francisco Mayor's race about two weeks away, Nov. 7th, County Sup. Angela Alioto has pulled the plug on her campaign and has endorsed former Sup. Roberta Achtenberg. Here is our brief update & analysis...

...Sources say Alioto has been hinting for weeks that she would drop out, so this Oct. 18th announcement wasn't a shocker. Neither was her endorsement of Achtenberg. However, it was expected that Alioto might formally announce her future political plans --- which may include a run for the 3rd Senate District seat now held by Milton Marks(D), who is *termed out*. Assemblyman John Burton(D-S.F.) had already announced for the 3rd S.D. some time ago, so insiders think an Alioto bid at this late time is pretty much wasted motion. But if she does run, she might manage to cut Burton up, but not fatally...

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...How does Alioto's endorsement of Achtenberg impact the mayor's race? In the latest survey by pollster David Binder (Oct. 8-9), Alioto is only at 3%. In a Sept. 17-18 Binder poll, Alioto was at 4%. So her support is very limited and most insiders think her backers will split among the top 3: incumbent Mayor Frank Jordan; Assemblyman Willie Brown; and Achtenberg...

...The latest Binder poll shows Brown at 31%, Jordan at 29%, Achtenberg at 19% and Ben Hom at 2%. The rest is undecided. Stay tuned...

CARD CLUB MADNESS: IRWINDALE TRIES ITS LUCK.

Voters in the City of Irwindale in L.A. County's San Gabriel Valley go to the polls Oct. 24th in another one of those card club elections. The population of Irwindale is only 1,050 --- and thus there are only about 760 registered voters. Measure A, if approved, would permit the construction of an 80-100 table, 80,000 sq. foot entertainment complex (\$15-20 million price tag). The key backer is businessman Frank Santin. His YES on A committee has hired consultant Jewett Walker Jr. to handle direct mail and other media. Opposition is coming from Concerned Taxpayers of Calif. --- that's the Bicycle Club. Last we heard, consultant Jerry Westlund was handling the opposition's direct mail campaign. How will this election end up? Card club elections are tough to win, especially when local elected officials, such as the city council, is against you. And that's the case in Irwindale. Still, with such a small universe in terms of voters, a good grass roots campaign, with solid direct mail, might have a shot. That's probably wishful thinking. Stay tuned...

15th C.D. UPDATE: CAMPBELL AND ESTRUTH PICK CAMPAIGN TEAMS. ELECTION SET FOR DEC. 12TH.

Editor's note: The battle between Demo businessman Jerry Estruth and GOP State Sen. Tom Campbell to replace former Congressman Norm Mineta(D-San Jose) is just about set. Filing for this open seat closes on Oct. 30th. Here is our update...

...At this point, it's a two-person battle between Campbell and Estruth, a former San Jose councilman. The election will be Dec. 12th, with a Feb. 6th runoff, if it's necessary. At this point, no one else has filed, but that could change. OUT of the race are Karin Dowdy(R)

and Annie Dandavati(D). They've endorsed Campbell and Estruth (respectively), as expected. Dowdy also has agreed to serve with businessman David Packard as Campbell's campaign co-chair...

...In terms of campaign teams, Campbell has parted company with his long time advisor, GOP consultant Ron Smith. In charge of Campbell's effort as the general consultant will be Kevin Spillane of The Stonecreek Group; Jim Nygren will do mail; Karen Keane and Alice Borden will split chores on fundraising; and Public Opinion Strategies will handle polling...

...As for Estruth, he's hired Trippi, McMahon & Squier for media; John Shallman will handle mail/daily mgt.; Fairbank, Maslin & Maullin will do polling; and consultant Susan Burnside has been hired as the field director. While both sides have strong teams, Campbell is rated as a favorite at this point in time...

...As of Oct. 6th, the Campbell operation claimed \$180,000 COH and another \$100,000 in pledges. It's gone up since that Oct. 6th news release, but how much we're not sure. As for Estruth, his side says he's put in \$100,000 of his own to get things started. Stay tuned...

67th A.D. RECALL: ALLEN REBUILDS CAMPAIGN.

Editor's note: With the recall election of Assemblywoman Doris Allen(R-Huntington Beach) still some 6 weeks away, the former Speaker has a new campaign team in place. Here is our update & analysis...

...Just before she resigned as Speaker, Allen dumped all those around her, including her chief political consultant in the recall, savvy GOP consultant Allan Hoffenblum. In the eyes of many, that was not a very smart move. But Allen's spirits seem to have rebounded somewhat in the past few weeks. Perhaps it was Gov. Pete Wilson's nasty snub at a recent bill signing ceremony that re-energized her. Whatever the case, her new team seems confident, although not cocky. Most of our sources still think the odds are against her...

...The new team is being led by the Abernathy Brothers: Mike and Mark. Mike is the VP of Peoples' Advocate, the anti-tax organization that has been with Allen since day one. Mark is a political consultant with close links to U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas(R-Bakersfield). Mark will be in charge direct mail and strategy. And of course, Allen

still counts on support from former Assemblyman Gil Ferguson of Newport Beach, who has become Allen's campaign chair. This is important because Ferguson still has a loyal following and organization in Orange County. But the key for Allen is current Speaker Brian Setencich of Fresno. He continues to be supportive and is trying to help Allen with fundraising --- the real key to this recall election...

...As for the Assembly Demos, nothing new to report. They still seem to be staying out of this race, despite the fact that with a minimal amount of money to support Linda Moulten Patterson, they might be able to steal this one away --- given the fact that the GOP vote could be split 4-ways. And needless to say, GOP *paranoia* is at a fever pitch because of this possibility...

...FYI: Absentee ballots will again play a major role in a special election. Those favoring the recall claim that in a two week period they have generated 9,000 requests for absentee ballots. Allen is out with her own AV program and her side claims to have generated 2,000 requests. Stay tuned...

L.A. DA's RACE: JORDAN & GREENBERG RUNNING.

Editor's note: As the fallout from the not guilty verdict in the O.J. Simpson double-murder case continues to dominate table talk, two candidates have formally announced their intent to challenge incumbent L.A. County DA Gil Garcetti this coming Mar. 26th. Here's our brief update...

...As CALPEEK has reported, Dep. DA Malcolm Jordan formally announced on Oct. 9th. Also in the running is former Dep. PD/DA Harold Greenberg, who is now a criminal defense attorney. Still sitting on the fence are Dep. DAs Sterling Norris and John Lynch. Another name to surface as a possible candidate is former U.S. Atty. Robert C. Bonner, now in private practice with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher...

...Back to Jordan. He has named respected L.A. County community leader Sybil Brand as his Honorary Campaign Chair. Of interest, Brand was a supporter of Garcetti's 1992 effort to oust former DA Ira Reiner. The campaign team will be led by consultant Harvey Englander, with Arnie Steinberg handling polling. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.

Editor's note: Here's another update on who's IN and who's OUT for 1996 House & Legislative races...

☒ **1st C.D.** - The DCCC finally has some credible candidates to challenge GOP U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs of Windsor. The Demos are local school board president Jim Hurst and Hearldsburg Councilman Peter Foppiano...

☒ **27th C.D.** - Demo consultant Roy Behr has signed on to do mail/media for Demo congressional candidate Doug Kahn...

☒ **49th C.D.** - Add the names of Peter Navarro and Nancy Casady to the list of Demos who are looking over a challenge to GOP U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray of San Diego. Navarro has run for office 3 times in the past 4-5 years, has 80% name ID and has a solid fundraising base. Former Congresswoman Lynn Schenk(D) also is said to be looking things over...

☒ **28th A.D.** - Incumbent GOP Assemblyman Peter Frusetta of Hollister has signed the Thompson Group (Mark Thompson) to handle his reelection campaign...

☒ **21st S.D.** - Former U.S. Atty. Adam Schiff(D) has announced for this OPEN seat now held by Sen. Newt Russell. Schiff has hired Skelton, Grover & Assoc. as his consultant...

☒ **27th S.D.** - GOP candidate Frank Colonna has won the endorsement of former GOP Gov. George Deukmejian...

☒ **36th C.D.** - David Bohline, who after his '94 primary loss in the 53rd A.D. went on to work for GOP congressional nominee Susan Brooks, called CALPEEK this past week to let us know he'll be working for GOP candidate Irwin Savodnik. Hummmmm. In other 36th C.D. news, Rancho Palos Verdes attorney Greg Ford has formally announced. He has hired GOP consultant Tom Shortridge...

☒ **43rd C.D.** - A couple of Demos names as possible challengers to U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert(R-Riverside). The Demos are college poli-sci professor Guy Kimbrough and Joe Dunn (we're checking to get some info on Dunn)...

VILLARAIGOSA TO DISCUSS '95 LEGISLATIVE TERM.
Demo Assembly Whip Antonio Villaraigosa will discuss the '95 legislative term when he addresses members of the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, Nov. 1, Hyatt Regency Hotel, L.A. For info & RSVPs, ☎ Emma Schafer (310)445-8862...

CALIF. BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE: 6 MEASURES PUT ON MARCH '96 BALLOT BY CA LEGISLATORS.

Editor's note: In addition to 2 initiatives which have already qualified for the Mar. 26th ballot, the Calif. Legislature has place 6 measures of its own on that same ballot. Numbers have not been assigned as yet. Here's a brief rundown, plus some other info about initiatives...

◆ **ACA 17** - By David Knowles(R-Sacto), this measure deals with property taxation and change in ownership. Parents can give their property to a child and if ACA 17 is approved, grandparents will be able to do the same thing for their grandchildren...

● **SB 9** - By Ruben Ayala(D-San Berdu), this measure puts drive-by shootings into a special circumstances murder category...

◆ **SB 28** - By Tim Leslie(R-Carmichael), this is the so-called Mountain Lion measure which allows the State Dept. of Fish & Game to manage the mountain lion population. This measure would void Prop. 117, approved by voters in 1990...

◆ **SB 32** - By Steve Peace(D-San Diego), this measure puts carjacking related murders and 1st degree retaliatory murders of jurors into a special circumstances category...

◆ **SB 103** - By Rob Hurtt(R-Orange Co.), this measure denies prisoners State unemployment benefits...

● **SB 146** - By Ken Maddy(R-Fresno), this is a \$2 billion G.O. Seismic Safety Bond Issue...

...FYI: At the AG's office for title & summary are two more law & order initiatives. One is called the **Public Safety Protection Act of 1996**. It is a constitutional amendment which would do away with unanimous verdicts (a 10-2 verdict would convict) in all jury trials

except where the DA asks for the death penalty. This measure also would repeal the so-called Prisoners Bill of Rights (read that as conjugal visits). The group heading up this drive is called Citizens for a Safer Calif. The Doplin Group is handling this campaign effort. The other initiative (just introduced) is by 3-Strikes author Mike Reynolds. It's called ***The 10-20-Life Initiative***. It would create a minimum sentence for criminals who commit serious or violent felonies *with firearms*. Sacto-based Cavalier & Associates has been hired for the signature drive and campaign, should this measure qualify. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S '95 DIRECTORY OF CAMPAIGN CONSULTANTS

The new 1995-96 (5th edition) of CALPEEEK's Directory of Campaign Consultants is now on sale. Checks and VISA/Mastercard only - no invoicing. Cost for CALPEEEK subscribers is \$15. For non-subscribers: \$50. Make checks payable to CALPEEK or Calif. Political Week and send with your name & address to: P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. It's 64-pages and contains more than 300 listings. It's an excellent resource guide...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: former CA Lt. Gov. Robert Finch died of a heart attack at his Pasadena home on Oct. 10th - a day after this 70th birthday. Finch was elected LG in 1966 -- and got more votes than Ronald Reagan, who was elected that same year. R.I.P...

● S.F.-based Solem & Associates picks up to two initiatives in S.F.'s Nov. 7th election: YES on Prop. E, a charter reform proposal; and NO on Prop. H, the city's parking & traffic initiative...

● The L.A. Times reshuffles its DC office, naming reporter/best-selling author Doyle McManus as bureau chief. Jack Nelson, who has held the bureau chief's job for 21 years, becomes chief DC correspondent...

● GOP consultant James Camp has become a partner with Mark Thompson, owner of the The Thompson Group in Orange Co...